

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

UNEDITED
UNREVISED
DRAFT
4/7/25

DRAFT

LLS NO. 25-1048.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

HOUSE BILL

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Duran,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

BILL TOPIC: Standard Labels for Recycling Receptacles
DEADLINES: File by: 4/14/2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING STANDARDIZED LABELS TO BE USED TO FACILITATE
102 RECYCLING EFFORTS IN THE STATE.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires the department of public health and environment (department), on or before ____, to enter into a licensing agreement with one or more providers of licensed artwork to be used for a pre-existing standardized labeling system to indicate recyclable materials that are accepted at facilities.

On and after ____, material recovery facilities (MRFs) and compost

recovery facilities (CRFs) must provide haulers within their service areas with MRF-approved or CRF-approved standardized label artwork for the hauler to use in order to procure, produce, and apply standardized labels to the receptacles that the haulers service. Neither an MRF nor a CRF may use an alternative, locally designed, or modified version of a label in place of a standardized label.

On and after _____, each hauler must acquire standardized label artwork from each MRF and CRF served by the hauler, procure and produce standardized labels featuring the artwork, and apply the standardized labels to each receptacle serviced by the hauler.

On and after January 1, 2027, each hauler shall ensure that each new receptacle that the hauler places into service is equipped with one or more standardized labels that are of an effective size and properly placed on the receptacle so as to be visible to the public.

On or before January 1, 2027, to ensure consistency between indoor and outdoor receptacles, each hauler shall provide an initial supply of standardized labels for each customer's indoor receptacles. A hauler shall determine the amount of the initial supply based on the number and size of outdoor receptacles serviced at each customer's location. A hauler may:

- Provide the initial supply of standardized labels at no cost to each customer;
- Recover the cost of the initial supply in service fees charge to each customer; or
- Offer the initial supply to customers for purchase at a reasonable price that does not exceed the production cost of the standardized labels.

The executive director of the department may adopt rules for the implementation of the labeling system.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 declares that:

4 (a) The purpose of this act is to require the display of standardized
5 labeling on all recycling, compost, and trash receptacles in Colorado in
6 order to help the public recycle and compost properly and more often
7 throughout the state;

8 (b) The use of standardized labels for receptacles increases

1 recycling, decreases contamination levels, and improves the costs and
2 quality of recycled commodities, making the materials more desirable,
3 reliable, and affordable for manufacturers to reuse;

4 (c) Material recovery facilities, recycling collection facilities,
5 processing centers, and composting facilities can use standardized
6 elements, formats, and artwork on receptacle labels and signage to
7 communicate which recyclable or compostable materials are accepted in
8 various facilities;

9 (d) Private and municipal recycling and compost haulers can
10 display standardized elements, formats, and artwork on hauler-owned
11 receptacles and provide standardized labels to customers to display the
12 standardized elements, formats, and artwork on customer-owned
13 receptacles; and

14 (e) The statewide standardized label design elements described in
15 this act will follow the same methodology for recycling, compost, and
16 trash labels that is used nationally for standardized labels.

17 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 10 to article
18 17 of title 25 as follows:

19 **PART 10**

20 **STANDARDIZED LABELS FOR RECYCLING AND COMPOST**
21 **RECEPTACLES**

22 **25-17-1001. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 10, UNLESS THE
23 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

24 (1) "COMPOST RECOVERY FACILITY" OR "CRF", MEANS A FACILITY
25 THAT PROCESSES COMPOSTABLE MATERIALS AND DETERMINES WHICH
26 MATERIALS ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR COLLECTION.

27 (2) "CRF-APPROVED STANDARDIZED LABEL ARTWORK" MEANS

1 STANDARDIZED LABEL ARTWORK THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY A
2 COMPOST RECOVERY FACILITY FOR USE ON RECYCLING RECEPTACLES THAT
3 ARE USED BY THE COMPOST RECOVERY FACILITY.

4 (3) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
5 AND ENVIRONMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-119.

6 (4) "HAULER" MEANS A WASTE OR RECYCLING COLLECTION
7 COMPANY SERVING CUSTOMERS IN COLORADO. "HAULER" INCLUDES A
8 MUNICIPAL HAULER AND A PRIVATE HAULER.

9 (5) "INDOOR RECEPTACLE " MEANS A RECYCLING, COMPOST, OR
10 TRASH RECEPTACLE THAT IS LOCATED INSIDE A RESIDENCE, BUSINESS,
11 SCHOOL, PUBLIC SPACE, OR INSTITUTION AND THAT IS NOT DIRECTLY
12 SERVICED BY A HAULER BUT THAT CONTRIBUTES TO MATERIALS THAT ARE
13 PLACED IN ONE OR MORE OUTDOOR RECEPTACLES OR COLLECTION
14 VEHICLES.

15 (6) "MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY" OR "MRF", MEANS A
16 FACILITY THAT PROCESSES RECYCLABLE MATERIALS AND DETERMINES
17 WHICH MATERIALS ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR COLLECTION.

18 (7) "MRF-APPROVED STANDARDIZED LABEL ARTWORK" MEANS
19 STANDARDIZED LABEL ARTWORK THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY A
20 MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY FOR USE ON RECYCLING RECEPTACLES
21 THAT ARE USED BY THE MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY.

22 (8) "RECEPTACLE" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE RECYCLING,
23 COMPOST, OR TRASH RECEPTACLES, BIN, LID, DUMPSTER, CART, ROLL-OFF,
24 COMPACTOR, OR INDOOR CONTAINER THAT IS USED FOR MUNICIPAL,
25 RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, OR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

26 (9) (a) "STANDARDIZED LABEL" MEANS A LABEL WITH A DESIGN
27 THAT IS BASED ON A PREEXISTING, NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED,

1 STANDARDIZED DESIGN METHODOLOGY OR LABELING SYSTEM THAT HAS
2 BEEN INDEPENDENTLY TESTED AND IMPLEMENTED ACROSS MULTIPLE
3 JURISDICTIONS NATIONALLY AND HAS DEMONSTRATED MEASURABLE
4 SUCCESS IN INCREASING MATERIAL RECOVERY, REDUCING
5 CONTAMINATION, REDUCING PROCESSING COSTS, IMPROVING THE QUALITY
6 OF THE RECYCLED COMMODITIES, AND MAKING MATERIALS MORE
7 DESIRABLE FOR MANUFACTURERS TO REUSE.

8 (b) "STANDARDIZED LABEL" MAY INCLUDE:

9 (I) A SIGN, STICKER, MAGNET, LABEL, OR PRINTED OR PROJECTED
10 IMAGERY OF STANDARDIZED INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECYCLING;

11 (II) A STANDARDIZED LABEL FOR PUBLIC AND OUT-OF-HOME
12 RECEPTACLES, SUCH AS PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGERY AND SIMPLIFIED DETAILS
13 IDENTIFYING THE MOST COMMON RECYCLED OR COMPOSTED MATERIALS
14 TO BE COLLECTED IN PUBLIC AND OUT-OF-HOME SPACES; AND

15 (III) A STANDARDIZED LABEL FOR RESIDENTIAL CARTS AND
16 IN-HOME USE, SUCH AS PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGERY AND LISTS OF
17 ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS FOR RECYCLING THAT ARE USED IN HOMES.

18 **25-17-1002. Licensing agreement for standardized labels. (1)**

19 ON OR BEFORE ____, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENTER INTO A LICENSING
20 AGREEMENT WITH ONE OR MORE PROVIDERS OF LICENSED ARTWORK TO BE
21 USED FOR A PRE-EXISTING STANDARDIZED LABELING SYSTEM THAT:

22 (a) IS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AND HAS DEMONSTRATED
23 MEASURABLE SUCCESS IN REDUCING CONTAMINATION AND INCREASING
24 RECYCLING EFFICIENCY; AND

25 (b) PROVIDES MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES AND COMPOST
26 RECOVERY FACILITIES WITH STANDARDIZED LABELS THAT INDICATE THE
27 RECYCLABLE MATERIALS THAT ARE ACCEPTED AT SUCH FACILITIES.

1 (2) A LICENSING AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF
2 THIS SECTION MUST:

3 (a) DESCRIBE AN ARRANGEMENT BY WHICH THE DEPARTMENT
4 ACQUIRES ARTWORK FOR STANDARDIZED LABELS FROM A PROVIDER,
5 WHICH ARTWORK IS PROVIDED AT NO COST TO THE STATE;

6 (b) REQUIRE THE STANDARDIZED LABELS TO BE PRODUCED ON
7 HIGH-QUALITY LABEL AND SIGNAGE MATERIALS THAT CAN WITHSTAND
8 THE ELEMENTS, INCLUDING EXTREME WEATHER AND ULTRAVIOLET RAYS;
9 AND

10 (c) REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE MATERIAL RECOVERY
11 FACILITIES AND COMPOST RECOVERY FACILITIES WITH ACCESS TO THE
12 STANDARDIZED LABEL ARTWORK FILES, ALLOWING THE FACILITIES TO
13 DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE LABELS THAT CORRESPOND WITH THE
14 SPECIFIC MATERIALS ACCEPTED AT EACH FACILITY.

15 **25-17-1003. Duties of facilities - provision of label artwork to**
16 **haulers - alternative designs prohibited.** (1) ON AND AFTER _____,
17 EACH MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY AND EACH COMPOST RECOVERY
18 FACILITY SHALL PROVIDE THE HAULERS WITHIN THEIR SERVICE AREAS
19 WITH THE MRF-APPROVED OR CRF-APPROVED STANDARDIZED LABEL
20 ARTWORK FOR THE HAULER TO USE IN ORDER TO PROCURE, PRODUCE, AND
21 APPLY STANDARDIZED LABELS TO THE RECEPTACLES THAT THE HAULERS
22 SERVICE.

23 (2) NEITHER A MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY NOR A COMPOST
24 RECOVERY FACILITY SHALL USE AN ALTERNATIVE, LOCALLY DESIGNED, OR
25 MODIFIED VERSION OF A STANDARDIZED LABEL IN PLACE OF A LABEL
26 FEATURING THE ARTWORK ACQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO
27 THE LICENSING AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SECTION 25-8-1002.

1 **25-17-1004. Duties of haulers - acquisition of standardized**
2 **label artwork and labels - display of standardized labels on**
3 **receptacles - initial supplies of standardized labels - alternative**
4 **designs prohibited. (1) ON AND AFTER _____, EACH HAULER SHALL:**

5 (b) ACQUIRE STANDARDIZED LABEL ARTWORK FROM EACH
6 MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY AND EACH COMPOST RECOVERY FACILITY
7 SERVED BY THE HAULER; AND

8 (b) PROCURE AND PRODUCE STANDARDIZED LABELS FEATURING
9 THE ARTWORK AND APPLY THE STANDARDIZED LABELS TO EACH
10 RECEPTACLE SERVICED BY THE HAULER.

11 (2) ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2027, EACH HAULER SHALL ENSURE
12 THAT EACH NEW RECEPTACLE THAT THE HAULER PLACES INTO SERVICE IS
13 EQUIPPED WITH ONE OR MORE STANDARDIZED LABELS THAT ARE OF AN
14 EFFECTIVE SIZE AND PROPERLY PLACED ON THE RECEPTACLE SO AS TO BE
15 VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.

16 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2027, TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY
17 BETWEEN INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RECEPTACLES, EACH HAULER SHALL
18 PROVIDE AN INITIAL SUPPLY OF STANDARDIZED LABELS FOR EACH
19 CUSTOMER'S INDOOR RECEPTACLES. A HAULER SHALL DETERMINE THE
20 AMOUNT OF THE INITIAL SUPPLY BASED ON THE NUMBER AND SIZE OF
21 OUTDOOR RECEPTACLES SERVICED AT EACH CUSTOMER'S LOCATION.

22 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION, FOR
23 THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION, A HAULER MAY:

24 (I) PROVIDE THE INITIAL SUPPLY OF STANDARDIZED LABELS AT NO
25 COST TO EACH CUSTOMER;

26 (II) RECOVER THE COST OF THE INITIAL SUPPLY IN SERVICE FEES
27 CHARGE TO EACH CUSTOMER; OR

1 (III) OFFER THE INITIAL SUPPLY TO CUSTOMERS FOR PURCHASE AT
2 A REASONABLE PRICE THAT DOES NOT EXCEED THE PRODUCTION COST OF
3 THE STANDARDIZED LABELS.

4 (c) A HAULER MAY PROVIDE STANDARDIZED LABELS IN ADDITION
5 TO THE INITIAL SUPPLY OF STANDARDIZED LABELS DESCRIBED IN
6 SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION OR MAKE ADDITIONAL STANDARDIZED
7 LABELS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT A REASONABLE,
8 COST-RECOVERY-BASED PRICE.

9 (4) A HAULER SHALL NOT USE AN ALTERNATIVE, LOCALLY
10 DESIGNED, OR MODIFIED VERSION OF A LABEL IN PLACE OF A
11 STANDARDIZED LABEL FEATURING THE ARTWORK ACQUIRED BY THE
12 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO THE LICENSING AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN
13 SECTION 25-8-1002.

14 **25-8-1005. Funding considerations - gifts, grants, and**
15 **donations.** (1) TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, A MATERIAL
16 RECOVERY FACILITY, COMPOST RECOVERY FACILITY, OR HAULER MAY
17 APPLY FOR GRANTS OR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO PAY COSTS
18 ASSOCIATED WITH COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PART 10.

19 (2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
20 GRANTS, DONATIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 10.

21 **25-8-1006. Public awareness and education efforts.** (1) TO
22 MAXIMIZE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF STANDARDIZED LABELS, THE
23 DEPARTMENT IS ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT PUBLIC AWARENESS EFFORTS
24 THROUGH STATE-APPROVED EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS THAT MAY BE
25 DESCRIBED IN THE LICENSING AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SECTION
26 25-8-1002.

27 (2) HAULERS, MUNICIPALITIES, BUSINESSES, AND WASTE

1 MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO INTEGRATE PUBLIC
2 EDUCATION INITIATIVES INTO THEIR EXISTING WASTE MANAGEMENT
3 PROGRAMS, USING ANY PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN MATERIALS THAT
4 MAY BE PROVIDED THROUGH THE LICENSE AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN
5 SECTION 25-8-1002.

6 **25-8-1007. Applicability - home rule municipalities and**
7 **counties** NOTHING IN THIS PART 10 SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO INFRINGE
8 UPON THE HOME RULE POWER OF ANY HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY OR
9 COUNTY.

10 **25-8-1008. Rules.** THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT
11 MAY ADOPT RULES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PART 10, INCLUDING
12 RULES CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT OF THIS PART 10.

13 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
14 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
15 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
16 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
17 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
18 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
19 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
20 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
21 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.